IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Ferritic steel alloy ~~characterised in that it has~~ comprising the following composition (in % by weight):

less than 1 % of Ni,

15–25 % of Cr,

[[4,5–12]] 4.5-12 % of Al,

[[0,5–4]] 0.5-4 % of Mo,

[[0,01–1,2]] 0.01-1.2 % of Nb,

[[0–0,5]] 0-0.5 % of Ti,

[[0–0,5]] 0-0.5 % of Y, Sc, Zr and/or Hf,

[[0–0,2]] 0-0.2 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM) ~~such as, for instance, Ce or La~~,

[[0–0,2]] 0-0.2 % of C,

[[0–0,2]] 0-0.2 % of N,

with the balance iron and normally occurring impurities.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein Mo entirely or partly is replaced by W.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Ferritic steel alloy according to ~~claims 1 or 2 characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein it contains one or more rare earth metals (REM).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it contains at least [[0,1]] 0.1 % in total of Ti, Nb, Zr and/or Hf.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Method of producing a ferritic steel alloy according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4 characterised in~~ claim 1 comprising coating a substrate alloy with Al or an alloy of Al, the substrate alloy having the following composition (in % by weight):

less than 1 % of Ni,

15–27 % of Cr,

0–5 % of Al,

[[0,5–5]] 0.5-5 % of Mo,

[[0,01–2]] 0.01-2 % of Nb,

[[0–0,5]] 0-0.5 % of Ti,

[[0–0,5]] 0-0.5 % of Y, Sc, Zr and/or Hf,

[[0–0,2]] 0-0.2 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM) ~~such as, for instance, Ce or La~~,

[[0–0,2]] 0-0.2 % of C,

[[0–0,2]] 0-0.2 % of N,

with the balance iron and normally occurring impurities.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Product in the form of wire, strip, foil and/or tube for use in high-temperature applications ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it is produced from a ferritic steel alloy according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Use of a ferritic steel alloy according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 as a supporting material in catalytic converter applications.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Use of a ferritic steel alloy according to ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 in heating and furnace applications.

Claim 9 (New): Ferritic steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein the one or more rare earth metals (REM) is Ce or La.

Claim 10 (New): Method according to claim 5, wherein the one or more rare earth metals (REM) is Ce or La.